

REMARKS

Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 121 and 372, the Examiner requires restriction of claims 1-29 into the following inventions or groups of inventions which are allegedly not linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1:

- Group I, claims 1-6, drawn to a serum/chelate/aqueous buffer composition.
- Group II, claims 7-8, drawn to a bovine calf serum (BCS)/EDTA/water composition.
- Group III, claims 9-10, drawn to a BCS/EDTA/water/sodium azide composition.
- Group IV, claims 11-12, drawn to a BCS/EDTA/water/patricin A composition.
- Group V, claims 13-15, drawn to a BCS/EDTA/saline/patricin A composition.
- Group VI, claims 16-18, drawn to a BCS/EDTA/saline/Tris composition.
- Group VII, claims 19-21, drawn to a method of using a serum/chelate/aqueous buffer composition.
- Group VIII, claims 19-21, drawn to a method of making a serum/chelate/aqueous buffer composition.
- Group IX, claims 22-24, drawn to a method of using BCS/EDTA/water composition.
- Group X, claim 25, drawn to a method of using a BCS/EDTA/water/sodium azide composition.
- Group XI, claim 26, drawn to a method of using a BCS/EDTA/water/patricin A composition.
- Group XII, claim 27, drawn to a method of using a BCS/EDTA/saline/patricin A composition.
- Group XIII, claim 28, drawn to a method of using a BCS/EDTA/saline/Tris composition.

As a preliminary matter, Applicants note that claims 19-21 are identified as belonging to Groups VII and VIII. However, it is believed that these claims only belong to Group VII, which is drawn to a method of using a serum/chelate/aqueous buffer composition.

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants hereby elect Group VII (claims 19-21) drawn to a method of using a serum/chelate/aqueous buffer composition, without traverse.

By the present communication, claim 19 has been amended and claims 30-45 have been added. No new matter has been added by way of amendment. Support for the new and amended

claims can be found throughout the PCT application as filed, including, but not limited to, original claims 1-18 and 22. The new claims depend either directly or indirectly from claim 19. Therefore, Applicants submit that the new claims are properly included in Group VII.

Claims 1-18 and 22-29 drawn to the unelected inventions have been canceled without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the canceled claims in one or more timely-filed continuation or divisional applications.

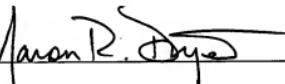
Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date August 22, 2008

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 23524
Telephone: (608) 258-4303
Facsimile: (608) 258-4258

By



Jason R. Dinges
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 55,114